

June 11, 2003

**Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification  
for  
Granite Construction Company - Gravel Extraction Operations at Rowland Bar  
Mendocino County**

On April 22, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Granite Construction Company requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for gravel extraction operations at Rowland Bar located in Mendocino County, California. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Middle Fork Eel River located in the Eel River Hydrologic Unit No. 111.00.

Granite Construction Company proposes to extract up to 50,000 cubic yards of river-run aggregate annually from Rowland Bar on the Middle Fork Eel River near Dos Rios, California. However, the final volume extracted will depend on gravel bar replenishment and may not reach the maximum volume allowed. The extraction operation will utilize a rubber-tired, front-end loader that stockpiles the gravel on the bar and loads it into trucks to be hauled off-site for processing. Extraction begins two feet above the low-flow water surface elevation, at least ten feet from the edge of the stream. Final surfaces are designed to be: 1) cross-sloped towards the river channel; 2) sloped downstream, parallel to the river and/or; 3) complementary to surrounding contours. This design strategy reduces potential channel shifting, ponding, and stranding due to moderate to high-flow inundation. No equipment is operated in the live stream channel except for placement of the summer crossing, if required.

If a summer crossing is required, it will be constructed of corrugated metal pipe placed in the stream. The metal pipe will be covered with river-run gravel from the adjacent bar. Care is taken to minimize sedimentation within the live stream channel resulting from construction of the summer crossing. No riparian vegetation occurs in the area of the crossing.

This project will result in no net loss of wetlands. Approximately three acres of stream channel will be temporarily impacted by this project.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Noncompensatory mitigation for this project includes the use of Best Management Practices. Granite Construction will conduct regular maintenance and inspections of all extraction equipment. Vertical and horizontal offsets will be maintained in the live stream channel to prevent incidental fill and vehicle encroachment. Granite Construction will also conduct annual site inspections with agency staff to ensure compliance with the approved extraction/operational plan.

Mendocino County Planning Commission, as the lead agency, adopted a Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Granite Construction Company's gravel extraction operations at Rowland Bar is scheduled to begin June 15 and will cease completely by November 1, dependent on dry weather conditions and low-flow through the Eel River. This Water Quality Certification, once issued, will remain in effect during one year. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). Staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period beginning on the posting date of this notice. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Miguel Villicana at (707) 576-2347, or at [villm@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:villm@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov).